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NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

A short time ago the people of Hamburg assembled around the churches of St. Nicholas and St. Paul to bid farewell to the noted chimes, as the bells had been confiscated under a general order appropriating all German church bells to be melted into cannon. They joined in hymns which were played for the last time on the bells. The chimes have 43 and 50 bells each, and will provide about 30 tons of gun metal.

Out of 2000 Belgians interned in a German camp near Lubeck who refused to work for the Boches, 500 died of starvation in three months and the survivors are in a pitiable condition.

A new airplane motor has recently been perfected by a prominent Detroit engineer. It is said to be the most powerful combustible engine ever contrived. It is necessary for the men operating it to wear ear muffs to protect the ear drums. It is so constructed that its life is determined only by the life of the airplane itself.

Coffins in Germany are made of cardboard and the covers are glued in place. Most of the uniforms of German soldiers are woven of various fibers, which prove useless in heavy weather. Water soaks into them and they shrink and crumble. The underclothing is of pulp paper. White shirts displayed in the Berlin shops look like linen, but one visit to the laundry reduces them to a soggy mass of paper.

Arrangements are being made to add a Jewish regiment to the British army. Soldiers with a knowledge of the Yiddish or Russian language who are now serving in other units are to be transferred to it. It is proposed that a representation of King David's shield shall be the regimental badge.

An English paper says that this war has put death in its place. It has tumbled down from that fearsome pinnacle it perched on before the war, that pinnacle supported by heart-rending wailings and gnashings of teeth, and it has made it—if one may use the words—homelier, commoner, more of a consummation and less of a cutting off of human life.

An agreement has been arrived at between the British and German governments which provides for the return to their own countries of the more severely wounded and the more serious cases of ill-health

among the prisoners interned in Switzerland. It also makes eligible for internment in neutral countries all who have been in captivity eighteen months.

The War Bureau of the Prussian Ministry of War has published a special appeal for women munition workers; it says that a great increase in the number of women in munition factories is needed at present.

A Japanese writer says that Japan is firmly resolved to go through this war until the cause of the Allies is completely victorious. She has mobilized the whole of her industrial resources in order to supply munitions to her Allies, especially Russia. The navy of Japan has been assisting in the Mediterranean; that she does not send soldiers to the field is due to the use of her shipping for other purposes.

One method employed in carrying the wounded to the rear during an action is by means of a stretcher placed on a carrier made of long wooden slats bolted together in the center. A horse is attached to each end of the carrier, the ends of the slats being passed through leather loops fixed to a kind of pack saddle on the horse's back. It is a revival of a very ancient method of transit.

Coal cards have been introduced in Berlin in order to regulate the winter's supply. Apartments heated with stoves will be limited to a quarter of a ton a room, and a maximum of a ton and a half for more than five rooms. Steam heated houses will be allowed only one-half of last year's supply.

The woman's regiment in Russia had its colors blessed in the square of St. Isaac's Cathedral at Petrograd. The women afterwards paraded through the Nevsky Prospect and other streets carrying banners inscribed "Death is better than shame," and "Women do not give your hands to traitors."

More than a hundred German merchant ships, seized by the United States when war was declared, have been turned over to the President for operation by the Shipping Board.